analysis or immediate notification of the condition of the patient and check off boxes for conditions labeled as "stable", "critical" and "deceased" are provided. The first portion **16** may also be provided with one or more removable labels **20** which are typically a pressure sensitive label that may be removed and placed on IV bags, medical devices, charts and the like to provide necessary information for the treatment of patients.

[**0044**] The second portion **18** of the triage tag **10** is provided with areas for recording additional substantive information such as preliminary diagnosis of a patient, medications provided, physical conditions and the like. In addition, other information may be provided in the second portion **18** such as the date, time, location and names of treatment personnel. As will be readily understood, the first and second portions **16** and **18** of the triage tag **10** may be provided with any sort of information that may be necessary for the care of a patient or that which may be required by local or municipal statutes, codifications and the like.

[**0045**] The triage tag **10** is generally constructed from a synthetic paper that is tear and water resistant. Tear and water resistance is generally preferable as the tag would then not be readily subject to destruction when attempting to remove a patient from the accident scene, such as a vehicle, building, underbrush, river, stream or the like. The first and second portions **16** and **18** of the first part **12** would be printed with information, such as by flash fusion, laser printing, ink jet and thermal (direct thermal and thermal transfer). The image would be UV cured in order to substantially reduce the possibility that the indicia or fields provided would wash off or would be easily removed by rubbing or other contact with the printed fields. The first part may also be provided with a cut out **23** such that the form can be hung or displayed from the patient transport cart to further alert subsequent personnel to the condition of the individual.

[**0046**] The second part **14** of the triage tag **10** as shown in **FIG. 1** is provided with a removable patient identification band **22**, such as a wristband, ankle band or the like. The second part **14** may also be provided with additional removable patient identification elements, such as a tag **24**.

[**0047**] The first and second parts **12** and **14** are joined to one another in an adjacent configuration and are separable or detachable from one another such as through the use of a line of weakness, score line, perforation line and the like.

[**0048**] As can be seen from **FIG. 1**, each of the components of the triage tag **10**, namely the first part **12**, patient identification band **22**, label **20** and tag **26** are provided with matching indicia **26**. As shown, the indicia **26** is represented as numerical indicia "123" which would be human readable. However, it should be appreciated that the indicia **26** may be alpha or numeric information or may be machine readable such as with a bar code. Alternatively, the indicia could be replaced with an RFID tag such that each piece could be tracked without the necessity of scanning or reading.

[**0049**] The indicia **26** is used to facilitate the matching of each of the pieces of the form assembly so as to facilitate the tracking of the individual or patient as the patient is transferred from location to location and treatment information or medication given to the patient is confirmed prior to engaging in further care to preserve the patient and condition.

[**0050**] Construction of the form assembly of the present invention is relatively straight forward and will be readily understood by those with skill in the art. Initially, the base stock provided with some preliminary printing, perforating of the line of weakness **25** and punching any holes that may be required in the form, such as hole **23** that enables the form to be used as hang tag is performed. Then any removable labels, such as pressure sensitive latex stock, are printed and are applied to the form assembly. The form assembly with the label(s) applied may then be imaged, bar coded, through a laser printer, flash fusion process, ink jet and thermal printing. The stock is cut or trimmed to the size necessary if excess material is present.

[**0051**] Reference is now directed to **FIG. 2** of the present invention in which an alternative embodiment is provided. A kit, generally designated by reference to numeral **50** is provided. The kit **50** includes a container **52**, here a plastic bag, that is sized and configured to hold at least one triage form **54**, collection piece **56** and collection tool **58**. As can be seen from **FIG. 2**, each element of the kit is provided with matching indicia **60** so that each piece of the kit and the integrity of the kit can be maintained as well as to aid in the tracking and treatment of the patient as has been previously described. The container **52** is shown in a cut away configuration such that each element contained within the kit is visible for the purposes of this discussion.

[**0052**] While a plastic bag has been discussed in the present embodiment, it should be understood that any suitable structure may be used such as an envelope, box, sleeve, tube or the like. In addition, a kit may comprise a series of envelopes, bags, and the like being inserted in a larger container or kit for distribution to one or more agencies that would used the kit in connection with its recovery efforts.

[**0053**] Continuing to refer to **FIG. 2**, the collection piece is generally constructed of a rigid element **62**, which may be a card stock, plastic strip or the like. The collection piece **56** will preferably be provided with a sample collection area **64** which preferably will be an absorbent material such as gauze, absorbent fibers or the like. The collection area **64** may also be an absorbent patch so as to capture a finger print or the like. The collection piece **56** may also have a closure element **66** which could be for example a pressure sensitive adhesive such that when the rigid element **62** is folded about fold line **68** the collection piece **56** can be sealed with the sample relatively retained within the collection piece.

[**0054**] Also shown in **FIG. 2** is a collection tool **58**, such as a swab which has absorbent ends for use in collecting a biological specimen (saliva, seamen, etc.) and then applying it to the absorbent pad **64** of the collection piece **56**.

[**0055**] Turning now to **FIG. 3** of the present invention in which a side view of the triage form **70** is provided showing a further alternative construction of the present invention. The triage form **70** has a collection piece **72** (the structure of which was previously described in connection with **FIG. 2**) that is removably, adhesively attached by spots, patterns or the like of adhesive **74**. The collection piece **72** is attached to one face of the form construction **70**, and preferably to the side of the form that is not intended to record treatment information of the patient. In this embodiment, the collection piece **72** may not be utilized by the triage or paramedic personnel and the collection piece can simply remain with the form assembly and not be used. If however, the situation